

STWARDWOMEN-UNTF NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2021-MAY 2022

1. Contextual analysis;

In Jondoru, Juba County, there have been issues of rampant land grabbing. In the month of May 2022 alone, a resident of Jondoru identified was found dead when he attempted to quarry stone in one of the disputed lands in the area. Cases of land grabbing have involved physical confrontation including with armed violence resulting into death and displacement of community members. During the clashes, STW closed the Survivor Support Center until the situation calmed down. In terms of COVID-19, there were no cases of people getting infected by COVID-19. People have eventually adapted to living with the new normal. Cases of violence against women and girls are rarely arising from COVID-19 but rather other crisis like economic shocks and intercommunal violence.

2. Progress Summary;

821 project key stakeholders were reached in Jondoru including local government, community leaders and survivors through the following activities namely 60 through consultative meetings, 56 through phone calls, 30 through formation of saving groups, 30 through development of by-laws workshop, 75 with emergency dignity kits, 57 through policy dialogue, 202 through dialogues, 87 through training for local government and community leaders, 192 from livelihood, 12 through litigation in local courts, 11 through medical support, and 9 through quarterly coordination and planning meetings. The numbers reached through distribution of ICE materials on COVID-19, awareness raising on referral pathway through radio talk shows, medical and risk management allowances, newsletters and distribution of hand washing facilities have not been included here.

3. THE KEY TASKS ACHIEVED IN THE REPORTING PERIOD.

• Dialogues with survivors on human, legal rights, justice issues

(4) four dialogues on human, legal rights and justice issues with survivors were conducted in Jondoru with a total of 202 (168F & 34M). The purpose of the dialogue was to increase knowledge of survivors on human, legal rights and also to ensure survivors take action and claim their rights. 45% of the participants were able to express increase in knowledge on their human & legal rights during an evaluation session.



Participants display their human rights and justice messages as picked from the dialogue in Jondoru.
Photo: Badrudin.

• Distribution of in-kind start up kits

192 women and adolescent girls in Jondoru were supported with assorted in-kind income generating start up kits based on the ready knowledge, skills and experience in the various businesses.

The women and adolescent girls were identified from 5 village savings and lending groups (VSLG) in Jondoru IDP camp. Out of the 5 groups, 2 groups are engaged in charcoal business (2 groups with 35 & 25 members respectively), saloon business (1 group with 52 members), vegetable farmers group (1 group with 35 members) and produce group (1 group with 45 members). The 5 groups were also supported with 3 months business rental fees each. The 5 groups have so far contributed 845,000 SSP as savings, which is equivalent to \$2012 using the current central bank exchange rate.



A cross section of women and adolescent girls from different business groups pose for a group photo with appreciation messages displayed for UNWOMEN. *Photo: Akuku Robert.*

• Policy dialogue on justice and protection needs of survivors.

One policy dialogue was conducted on the justice and protection needs of survivors in Jondoru reaching 57 participants (53F & 4M). The policy dialogue aimed at ensuring survivors participate in developing policies and strengthen their protection mechanisms. Some of the protection needs of survivors in Jondoru mentioned included security, boreholes, health centers, food, clothes and schools among others. The policy dialogue ended up with a policy brief titled “peace & security: key to justice and protection needs of survivors, available here <https://stewardwomen.org/Publication.html>. The same has been reposted by Solidarity for African Women’s Rights [SOAWR] website and

available here:

bit.ly/STEWARWOMEN-PolicyBrief-SOAWR.



A group photo with cheerful participants after the fruitful policy dialogue in Jondoru.

Photo by Josephine.

• Pay medical bills for survivors in Jondoru

Eleven (11) survivors of rape and early/child marriages received medical treatment. During the period of December 2021 -March, 2022, four survivors of rape & early /child marriages were supported with medical assistance to treat conditions resulting from rape including fistulas & STIs, uterus tear and cervical tear. Additionally, other seven (7) survivors of rape received medical treatment during the months of April & May, 2022 for treatments of fistulas, uterus tear & STI, cervical tears & STIs. The fistula survivors are usually embarrassed of their conditions and are afraid to seek medical attention and it takes a lot of convincing to make sure they get the necessary medical treatment. STW will continue to provide consistent psychosocial support to survivors including follow-ups by case workers. Through the medical support, the survivors of rape and early/child marriages were able to get timely medical attention for their ailments.

• Community consultative meeting to identify survivors who need medical, legal and live hood assistance

One community consultative meeting was conducted to identify the survivors who need medical, legal and livelihood assistance. The purpose of the meet-

ing is to share in detail the categories of survivors needed to benefit from medical, legal and livelihood assistance. Prior to the consultative meeting, case workers raise awareness in the community on the available services offered by STW. Survivors who hear about the information individually visit the survivor support center to seek for either medical, legal and livelihood assistance. Overall, 60 survivors were identified as those who need support i.e 45 survivors were identified to benefit from livelihood, 8 from medical assistance, and 7 from legal assistance.

• Formation of saving groups

One saving group called ‘JONDORU UNITED WOMEN VILLAGE SAVING & LOAN GROUP’ was formed with a total of 30 (29F & 1M) members. The purpose of forming the saving group is to allow survivors to be able to save money in order to provide for their families and not rely on their husbands. The saving group has so far saved a total of 845,000 SSP which is equivalent to \$2012 using the current central bank exchange rate (at reporting time) and they meet every 2 weeks.



Photograph of members of the JONDORU UNITED women saving group during the formation of saving group in Jondoru. *Photo taken by: Regina Poni.*

• Litigation of cases

12 rape cases have been litigated successfully at the GBV court in Juba. Out of the 12 rape cases litigated, 10 survivors were minors and only 2 were adults while 3 of the convicts are juvenile offenders.

• Distribution of dignity kits

In order for women and girls in the community to maintain their hygiene during their monthly period, STW procured and packed 75 pieces of dignity kits comprising of a dignity bag, lesu, soap, vaseline, pants, nail cutter, tooth brush, tooth paste in Jondoru. 45 survivors of rape and early /child marriage were supported with the dignity kits including child mothers, rape survivors and the adolescent girls. 30 other pieces of dignity kits are kept as emergency kits at the survivor support center to support those who need emergency dignity kits. Sanitary pads are not affordable by all and women have had to use unhygienic methods during their menstrual cycles. The distribution of the dignity kits was a great help to the survivors in the IDP camp and host community.



A cross section of survivors who have received dignity kits in Jondoru. *Photo by Catherine Mark.*

• Phone calls on hotline number: +211922682252- Jondoru

STEWARDWOMEN has availed hotline numbers for each location where people can call to refer survivors who need support. 56 calls were received through Jondoru hotline.

• Hand washing containers, soap, sanitizers, facemasks

As a way of preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the community, STW procured and distributed the COVID-19 related equipments including hand sanitizers, facemasks, boxes of soap and hand washing containers. In Jondoru, the covid-19 related items were distributed in the Survivor Support Center, 2 Schools, 1 market and 3 Churches. By the time of making this report, no person was reported to have contracted COVID-19 within our project site in Jondoru.



Distribution of COVID-19 items taking place at Jondoru Youth Center (left), Marcy church in Jondoru (center) and Exodus Academy International School (right).

• Training workshop for local government and community leaders on managing rape and early child marriages using the developed training manual

4 training workshops were conducted for the local government and community leaders on managing rape and early child marriages in Jondoru. During the training in Jondoru the participants were asked to fill a pre and post test for evaluation purposes at the end of the training. Out of the 15 participants who correctly filled both the pre and post-test forms, 11 of them had gained knowledge from the training which is approximately 73%.



Members of the local government in Jondoru standing up with only one lady among them.

• Develop and review of the referral pathways STW with women in Jondoru updated the referral pathway in April 2022 so as to allow survivors access available services. There was orientation session with survivors during the updating of the referral pathway. 50 copies of the referral pathway has been printed in Jondoru.



Women in Jondoru display messages they developed during the updating of the referral pathway.

• Development of bylaws

One session on development of bylaws for the survivors was conducted reaching 30 female participants in Jondoru. The purpose of the activity was to develop bye-laws for the new saving groups formed to ensure the survivors are able to come up with their own internal laws governing the operation of the saving group, including the name of the saving group, the amount to be saved, the amount to be loaned, who qualifies for loans and when to come for meetings among others. In JONDORU UNITED women saving group meets every 2 weeks and save 1,200 SSP per person.

4. Changes in the lives of beneficiaries during the reporting period.

Four parents of survivors of rape who received litigation support have spoken out on the incidents of rape and early/child marriage and the support they have received.

They call on others who fall victims of any sexual violence or anyone to take action and report cases of rape and seek legal redress to defend and claim their rights and the human rights of others; 33 survivors are able to provide for their family basic needs and that of their families through the livelihood support from the project and weekly savings contributed. 2 survivors of fistula have completely recovered from bodily injuries as a result of the surgery. No person contracted COVID-19 during the reporting period due to the knowledge gained on COVID-19 prevention awareness sessions and preventive equipments distributed.

5. Lessons learned;

- Survivors of rape who suffer from fistula are very embarrassed of their conditions and refuse to seek medical attention as its also costly to fix the problem, and they do not have the money to pay for the operation. This means that STEWARDWOMEN with support from UNTF should establish a fistula basket funds to continue to support survivors with surgery and provide consistent psychosocial support to survivors including follow-ups by case workers.
- Majority of adults and the illiterates learn better through role plays and drama. This means that future interactions with adults and illiterates during activities should be implemented with simplified learning materials that are developed with visual illustrations, role play write-ups and drama and pre-recorded radio listen-up recordings.

6. Recommendations;

- There is need to advocate for the local authorities to protect the business premises of the beneficiaries to avoid cases of theft & looting.
- Refresher trainings to be done to the Chiefs and community leaders to ensure they are taking responsibility in the communities to manage rape & early/child marriages.
- The women groups provided with the in kind start up kits, should be supported with T-shirts/aprons for visibility.
- The saving groups need to develop revolving loans so that others can also benefit from the funds saved.

7. Quotes made during the project;

- “The idea of selling charcoal will be good because the rain season is approaching and people will not be able to go to the bush to collect firewood for cooking but instead they will be forced to buy charcoal”.
- Aryemo Jennifer, Livelihood group, Jondoru.*

Thanks

